

Dear FCC:

I fully support rulemaking proposal (RM-10811). Morse code is an important component of the ham radio avocation. It provides for an efficient means of electronic communications under difficult conditions when other modes such as voice and digital, are likely to fail or become severely compromised.

In addition, Morse Code is the lynchpin of the ham radio hobby. Many organizations have stringent requirements for membership; for amateur radio, learning Morse code is a demanding requirement that requires commitment to master. Morse Code is not now and nor has it ever been an real obstacle to anyone willing to spend the time to learn it in order to receive HF privileges. Eliminating Morse Code will have the effect of further "dumbing down" the avocation of amateur radio, a metamorphosis that when complete, would result in a radio "service" barely discernable from today's Citizen Band or Family Radio Service.

As Thomas Paine said: "What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. ".